

Commissioner's Weekly Field Memo
Friday, May 2, 2014

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Action Item Calendar

May 16: School [calendars](#) due

May 30: District [Teacher of the Year](#) nominations due

June 2: Preliminary behavioral-intervention data due (see [below](#))

June 20: School [Health](#) Reports due

June 23: Behavioral-intervention final data due (see [below](#))

Notes from Commissioner Gist

1. Westerly High student honored for “remarkable gains in reading”

Scholastic has named Darline Manfred, a junior at Westerly High School, as one of 13 national “All-Stars” for making “remarkable gains in reading.” Scholastic notes that Darline arrived in Westerly from Haiti, after the 2010 earthquake, with no formal schooling background. “Because of her resilience and thirst for knowledge, she overcame the challenge of being an English language learner ... and excelled academically, improving her reading by the equivalent of five grade levels in two-and-a-half years,” the award citation states. Congratulations to Darline, and to the educators at Westerly High School who helped her on her way toward success!

2. Coventry student is Rhode Island finalist in Doodle 4 Google competition

We received word this week that Molly Brown, an 8th grader at the Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School, in Coventry, is the Rhode Island state finalist in the Doodle 4 Google nationwide competition. As one of 50 state finalists, Molly, if she is selected as the national winner, could receive a \$30,000 scholarship, and her school will receive \$50,000.

I encourage everyone to log onto the Google website and vote for Molly's doodle. Molly is in the grades 8-9 category; you will see 9 other doodles from around the country displayed. Molly's doodle is called "Replicating World Peace":

<https://www.google.com/doodle4google/vote.html#d=d4-8>

Congratulations, Molly, and best of luck in the national competition!

From RIDE

School Finances:

3. RIDE posts local aid payment rates for Fiscal Year 2015

RIDE has posted the Fiscal Year 2015 local-aid payment rates for students attending charter public schools, the William M. Davies,

Jr. Career & Technical High School, the Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical Center, and the Anchor Learning Academy (Recovery High School) on the RIDE website, at:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/FundingFinance/FundingSources/StateEducationAid.aspx>

Data Reporting:

4. Reports due June 23 on funds expended for behavioral interventions for general-education students – *Action Item*

Any general-education students in grades K through 12 who received academic or behavioral interventions provided through Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CEIS) funds from IDEA Part B must be counted and reported to RIDE.

This reporting is due by **June 23**, with a preliminary data submission on **June 2**; final reporting is due before the close of the school year while program staff members are in school in case RIDE has clarification requests.

LEAs that voluntarily chose to use CEIS funds must report student participation.

Further information on this reporting is available at:

http://www.ride.ri.gov/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/Students-and-Families-Great-Schools/Special-Education/Special-Education-Regulations/EIS_memo%202014.pdf

Also, an informational PowerPoint on this reporting is viewable at:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/Students-and-Families-Great-Schools/Special-Education/Special-Education-Regulations/EIS-tracking-and-reporting.ppt>

Legal:

5. Parents' challenge to suspension and transfer dismissed by Commissioner

RIDE has posted this Commissioner's decision on a suspension and transfer of a student:

http://www2.ride.ri.gov/applications/RideDirectory/DOCS/2014/005_14_Student_F._DOE_v._Providence_S.B.04242014.pdf

Teacher Induction:

6. RIDE posts new Induction Newsletter, thanks principals for support

RIDE would like to thank all principals who have beginning teachers in their building for completing the short mid-year survey regarding beginning-teacher induction and the impact it is having on performance and on student learning. The survey provides us with feedback that can help us in continuing to refine induction supports.

Please click on the following link to read a copy of the first Induction Newsletter for this year:

http://www.ride.ri.gov/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/Teachers-and-Administrators-Excellent-Educators/Induction/Induction_Vol3_Spring2014.pdf

Data Use:

7. RIDE adds Fall 2014 NECAP data to Growth Model Visualization tool

The Fall 2014 NECAP data is now available through the Growth Model Visualization tool.

Users of the public version of the tool can view mathematics and reading proficiency and growth data for districts, schools, grade levels, and student groups. The public tool can be accessed at:

<http://rigm.ride.ri.gov/growthmodel/index.htm>

A restricted-access version of the Growth Model Visualization tool allows district and school users to explore individual student growth data. Access to this version is protected by a password so that confidential data are accessible only to authorized personnel. The password-protected version of the tool can be accessed through the RIDEmap, at:

<https://ridemap.ride.ri.gov/default.aspx>

If you have a question regarding the Growth Model Visualization tool, please send your question to RIGM@ride.ri.gov

Educator Evaluations:

8. RIDE issues information on calculating, use of final effectiveness ratings for support professionals

Since the Rhode Island Model Support Professional Evaluation and Support System is in gradual implementation this year, RIDE will be collecting final effectiveness ratings only in the aggregate for LEAs (i.e., the total number of highly effective, effective, developing, and ineffective support professionals). Additionally, RIDE will not be using support professionals' final effectiveness ratings for the current school year as part of the certification-renewal process. We are collecting the ratings purely for informational purposes, similar to what we did during gradual implementation of the teacher and building-administrator evaluations.

If you are using the Educator Performance and Support System (EPSS) in your LEA, the support professional final effectiveness ratings will be automatically reported to RIDE when the evaluations are completed; however, if your support professionals completed only one Student Learning Objective (SLO) or only one Student Outcome Objective (SOO), which was the expectation for gradual implementation, evaluators will need to double the SLO or SOO score on the Student Learning Results and Scoring Form in order for the EPSS to be able to calculate a final effectiveness rating. In other words, the EPSS will not calculate a final effectiveness rating if there are fewer than two SLO or SOO scores (it considers the process incomplete). Please contact the educator-evaluation team at RIDE with any questions about evaluation of support professionals, at edeval@ride.ri.gov.

Directions for reporting final effectiveness ratings for LEAs both using and not using the EPSS will be communicated in next week's Field Memo. In the meantime, directions for completing the scoring forms in EPSS are available under the Tutorials and Guides tab on the RIDE website, at:

www.ride.ri.gov/EPSS.

9. RIDE posts new online module on scoring Student Learning, Student Outcome Objectives

A new online module designed to help educators and evaluators better understand the process for scoring individual Student Learning Objectives (SLOs) and Student Outcome Objectives (SOOs) is now available on the RIDE website. The Scoring SLOs module is approximately 20 minutes long and can be completed independently or with a group of colleagues. We encourage grade-level teams and departments to view the module and to engage in a conversation as a group. Scoring SLOs is one of many online modules available on our website to support the effective implementation of educator evaluations. The Scoring SLOs online module can be found on our website, at:

www.ride.ri.gov/EdEval-OnlineModules.

Programs and workshops:

10. Registration opens for the 2014 Rhode Island Social Studies Summer Institute

The Rhode Island State Panel on Civic Education (SPCE) and RIDE will host the 2014 Rhode Island Social Studies Summer Institute

on **May 31**, at Rhode Island College, from 8 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Sign-in with complimentary coffee will begin at 8 a.m., with the keynote address beginning at 8:30 a.m. Lunch will be provided to all presenters and participants; students will present civics and history projects in a special session. The keynote address, “Roger Williams and Beyond: Teaching U.S. History through the Contributions of Rhode Island Women,” will be delivered by Elyssa Tardif, Ph.D., Director of the Newell D. Goff Center for Education and Public Programs at the Rhode Island Historical Society.

Registration is now open! Space is limited to 50 participants, so please register soon.

Register via SurveyMonkey:

www.ride.ri.gov/2014-Social-Studies-Institute-Register .

Workshop information can be found at:

- Social Studies Conference Information:
www.ride.ri.gov/Social-Studies
- Institute Agenda and Brochure, with Workshop Schedule and Descriptions: www.ride.ri.gov/2014-Social-Studies-Institute-PDF

Educators who register by May 23 will receive a printed certificate of participation for their records that includes the titles of the workshops they registered for at the end of the conference.

The theme of this *free* conference is the impact of civic action and civic education on Rhode Island’s history and future. The conference aims to provide teachers with opportunities to hear first-hand from their peers about successful strategies and

resources for teaching the Social Studies Grade Span Expectations and integrating the Common Core State Standards, to learn more about resources supporting instruction in Rhode Island history and civic education, and to create partnerships between K-12 institutions and higher education to further student engagement.

Questions about the Institute may be directed to Kamlyn Keith (kamlyn.keith@ride.ri.gov). Members of the State Panel include: the Rhode Island Social Studies Association, the Rhode Island Historical Society, and K-12 and higher education educators.

We look forward to seeing you at the conference!

From the U.S. Department of Education

11. Office for Civil Rights releases guidance on addressing sexual violence, sex discrimination

Please see this notice from the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights:

On Tuesday, the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights released new guidance describing the responsibilities of colleges, universities, and public schools to address sexual violence and other forms of sex discrimination under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

The guidelines, highlighted by the White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault's [new report](#) released earlier Tuesday, provide greater clarity about the requirements of Title IX around this critical issue – as requested by institutions and students.

To read the guidelines and to access more information on this topic, see:

<http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/guidance-issued-responsibilities-schools-address-sexual-violence-other-forms-sex>

From other federal agencies

12. Agriculture Department posts summer meals webinars

The Food and Nutrition Service at the U.S. Department of Agriculture has posted its 2014 [Summer Meals](#) webinar series. The webinars include such topics as Food That's In When School Is Out, Keeping Schools Involved in Summer Meals, and an overview of the Summer Meals Toolkit & Website. Please feel free to share this information with your team.

From other organizations

13. Video contest on transportation announced

Please see this notice from the American Road and Transportation Builders Association:

The American Road and Transportation Builders Association is sponsoring a student transportation-video contest. Now in its fourth year, this contest asks students to create a video about any aspect of transportation in the United States. The top two winning videos will win a \$500 cash prize. In past years, esteemed videos have received recognition in the

transportation industry. This could be a beneficial project for a class, a student organization, or any student interested in current events. More information about the contest can be found at: <http://www.artba.org/video-contest/>

RIDE will post this field memo on Tuesday, at:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/InsideRIDE/CommissionerDeborahAGist/FieldMemos.aspx>